

in bringing him into the working ranks, will be a factor of incalculable value in working the field outside of the church. But the important question at issue is still unanswered. How shall we reach him? How shall we secure him?

There is a scriptural injunction which says, "Be wise as a serpent," and here we want to apply it. A careful study of his disposition and environments under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will I believe in every case reveal some channel of approach. The united prayers of officers and teachers must be the principal lever by which to gradually loosen him from the worldly surroundings and fastnesses in which he has become embeded during all these years of indifference. There are numberless methods and rules laid down by authors and enthusiastic workers by which to accomplish this end, all of which are worthy of study and consideration, but we so frequently fail in the application because we do not consider well the fact that all of these must be modified to suit the particular case in hand.

One rule or method that can be safely recommended as worthy of prayerful study and consideration and application is the incident of Christ and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. The Master's method in winning this woman is acknowledged by all educators as being unsurpassed. Approaching him indirectly, I believe, is generally most successful. This may be brought about thru some intimate friend of his who is a member of the school, or possibly thru a member of his own family. Always carry in your mind in regarding him a prayerful expectation of winning him. And at some session, when least expected, you will be most agreeably surprised to see him enter the school. Then will be the moment that the superintendent will feel his greatest need of the guidance of the Spirit, so as to act promptly, wisely in placing him where the most favorable impressions may be brought to bear upon him, and if this is done, the end is usually accomplished. However, we must not make too much haste and expect too prompt results. If the first attempt fails try again, it may require years to reach the desired result. Continual perseverance is the price of eventual success.

And now briefly let us look at the bad boy.

This is strictly a legitimate field for Sunday school work, and yet sadly neglected. If properly worked I am convinced it will become one of the most prolific sources from which to gather strong and valuable material for building up and extending the influence and the power of the church.

This boy usually demonstrated as "bad" (which I believe is the wrong adjective to use in describing him) is generally an active, energetic specimen of halfway developed manhood, brimful and overflowing with a superabundance of animal spirit, of strong passions, a stubborn will, and questionable ideas of right and wrong. And yet hidden beneath all this are generous impulses and not a few noble qualities which if brought

properly to view will reveal a jewel. One square look at him will convince you that he possesses the qualities which will make him a mighty power in the world for evil or for righteousness.

We have been too lazily content in confining our work to the goody-good children that seem to run naturally in the proper groove with scarcely any effort on our part. We shun the bother and effort required to meet the trouble, disturbance and annoyance that this class of boys will bring into our smoothly running schools. But dare we think of the loss to our schools, our churches and the work in general and continue in this love of ease. No! Verily, I believe that not a few of the Peters and Pauls of the church of the twentieth century will come from this class of boys.

The all absorbing question is, How shall we secure him? Go to him yourself, seek him with a sincere, yearning desire for his salvation. Study him prayerfully until you can grasp his leading propensities, his likes and dislikes, then approach him even if it must be thru his stomach and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit endeavor to impress him with the fact that you sincerely love him and are most earnestly interested in his welfare. If you succeed the victory is won. Don't we all have some little fad or little side issue or specialty of some kind to which we devote not a few spare moments now and then for the pleasure there is in it. And can we not, each of us, endeavor to become interested in the bad boy and the means of winning him over to the cause of righteousness and devote some of our spare moments to the study of his case and I know it will gradually become a subject of intense interest to us.

There isn't a brother or especially a sister here who would not enjoy the labor and feel some real pleasure in growing or cultivating some rare specimen of a beautiful flowering plant. Then go forth into the attics and the byways, along the hedges and the highways, ay, even pursue down the dark lanes that lead to dismal swamps of sin and degradation. Here amid the stifling vapors of blasphemy and high wickedness you will find growing young specimens of the *genus homo*. Select one of these, approach it cautiously and prayerfully, gradually and carefully lift it from its repulsive surroundings, bear it home with tenderest care, plant it in the Sunday-school, the garden of the church. Then watch over it, labor with it until you love it as your own soul. Water it with your tears if you must—but care for it, cultivate it, develop it, train it until it is ready to bud and blossom and shed forth the beauty and fragrance of the Christ life. Then will you regret your tears, your prayers, your labors? What of your cup of pleasure? But wait, oh wait until the fruitage, wait for the fruit-bearing, and whether it be ten, twenty, thirty, sixty or a hundred fold, I know the joy of your soul will be complete.

Yea, verily, I am convinced that the work of winning the elder members and the bad

boys into our schools can be made one of all absorbing interest, of intense fascination, of purest joy, of holiest pleasure if it is done in the name of Jesus.

LESSON FOR JULY 9

BY THE EDITOR

Daniel in Babylon—Daniel 1:8-21

GOLDEN TEXT.—Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. Dan. 1:8.

LESSON THOUGHT.—God will give us victory over all temptation if we are faithful to him.

Home Readings

Captivity. Daniel 1:1-7.

Daniel in Babylon. Daniel 1:8-21.

Prosperity from God. Gen. 39:1-6.

The safe way. Psalm 1.

The upright way. Prov. 16:1-9.

Temperate in all things. I Cor. 9:19-27.

The Rechabites honored. Jer. 35:12-19.

Explanation

The regular explanatory notes together with the text are omitted this week for want of space. Instead of these we give a few illustrations and some other matter that will aid the reader to make the application of the lesson.

The Lesson Applied

1. *Purpose of Heart.* It did not take Daniel very long to decide what he would do. The question as to how his conduct would affect his standing in the court was easily disposed of. He met this, with other questions, on the ground of moral right, and settled it instantly and forever. It is a grand thing to be able to meet temptation as Daniel met it, and to decide always on the simple question of right or wrong. He was ruled by principle and not by custom. One who is thus ruled by principle will never ask what will others think of me, how will this affect my popularity and my prosperity. With him it is always a question of right or wrong, and the decision is always in favor of the right regardless of consequences. Such men we need in the halls of our legislatures, national and state. And when we get them, some of our public men will change their opinion that the "purification of politics is an irredescent dream."

2. *Home Training.* Beyond question Daniel was indebted to his home training for the strength of character which he possessed and which won for him the second place in the great Babylonish empire. When Daniel left his home he knew what his duty was, for he had been properly instructed. Home training is the most potent element in the religious development of the young. If fathers and mothers would do their duty in the bringing up of their children, the great evils which curse this land would soon be a thing of the past. Sometimes parents become discouraged; they feel that all their sacrifice is in vain, but the conduct of Daniel should be an encouragement to every mother in the land. God will honor the sacrifices of a faithful, consecrated mother's heart, and in